Hypothetical Letter from President Trump to Jewish Leaders Requesting Clarification on Specific Verses from the Talmud

Douglas C. Youvan

doug@youvan.com

www.youvan.ai

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This paper presents a carefully constructed hypothetical letter from U.S. President Donald J. Trump to major Jewish religious authorities. The letter is framed as an interfaith inquiry, seeking clarity on specific Talmudic passages that have been sources of historical controversy, theological tension, or ethical concern when viewed through the lens of modern values. Each cited verse is paired with a clear English translation, with particular attention given to passages concerning the identity of the Messiah, treatment of non-Jews, sexual consent, gender roles, and divine commandments regarding enemies of Israel. Rather than offering commentary or polemic, this work aims to preserve a tone of formal diplomatic inquiry—modeling how difficult theological questions might be posed with respect but without evasion. The selected verses are well-documented, and the letter requests authoritative clarification on their status: whether normative, metaphorical, outdated, or actively taught today. This contribution is intended to stimulate open, factual, and scholarly discussion on the interface between ancient religious texts and modern ethical frameworks, especially where religious narratives influence policy, perception, or interfaith dialogue.

Keywords: Talmud, Judaism, President Trump, interfaith dialogue, Sanhedrin 43a, Gittin 57a, Yebamoth 60b, Amalek, Jewish law, ethical criticism, age of consent, Jesus in Talmud, Mary in Talmud, rabbinic authority, Christian-Jewish relations, religious ethics, biblical genocide, Maimonides, Jewish-Gentile law, controversial scriptures.

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To:

- The Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Agudath Israel of America
- The Rabbinical Assembly
- The Central Conference of American Rabbis
- Union for Reform Judaism
- World Union for Progressive Judaism
- Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

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Subject: Inquiry Regarding Talmudic Passages with Modern Ethical Concerns

Dear Respected Leaders of the Jewish Faith,

In the interest of interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding, I am writing to respectfully request your guidance and clarification on several Talmudic passages that are frequently cited in public discourse and academic study as being incompatible with modern moral and legal standards.

The following verses are of particular concern, especially where they appear to promote ethnic superiority, violence, or actions that are considered immoral or illegal in contemporary society. For transparency and fairness, each citation is given alongside a widely accepted English translation.

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1. Sanhedrin 43a

Aramaic: בערב פסח תלו את ישו
English: **“On the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu (Jesus).”**

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2. Sanhedrin 106a

Aramaic: מרים מגדלא נשייא
English: “Miriam the women’s hair-plaiter.” (Mary the mother of Jesus; “hair-plaiter”, i.e., whore.)

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3. Gittin 57a

Aramaic: ישו בן פנדירא … דנין אותו בצואה רותחת
English**: "Jesus son of Pandera … is judged in boiling excrement."**

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4. Yevamot 60b

Aramaic: בת שלש שנים ויום אחד מתקדשת בביאה
English: **"A girl three years and one day old may be betrothed by intercourse."**

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5. Ketubot 11b

Aramaic: בת שלש שנים ויום אחד מתקדשת בביאה
English: **"A girl three years and one day old may be betrothed by intercourse."**

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6. Avodah Zarah 26b

Aramaic: אין מעלין ולא מורידין
English: **"One does not raise him up and one does not lower him" — i.e., do not rescue a Gentile who has fallen into a pit.**

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7. Sanhedrin 57a

Aramaic: גוי שהבה את ישראל חייב מיתה
English: **"A Gentile who strikes an Israelite is liable for death."**

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8. Bava Kamma 37b

Aramaic: נזקו של ישראל עדיף
English: **"The damage (or property) of an Israelite is preferable."**

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9. Sanhedrin 98a

Aramaic: אין בן דוד בא עד שיכלו שופטי ישראל
English: **"The son of David (Messiah) will not come until the judges of Israel are gone."**
(The end of Christian and Muslim dominion over Israel.)

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10. Maimonides, Hilchot Melachim 11:4 (not Talmud but codified law)

Hebrew: ישו הנוצרי … הכשיל את ישראל והחטיאן
English: **"Jesus the Nazarene … caused Israel to stumble and led them to sin; he is not the Messiah."**

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11. Berakhot 58a

Aramaic: ברוך … שלא עשני גוי … שלא עשני אשה
English: **"Blessed … who has not made me a Gentile … who has not made me a woman."**

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12. Megillah 6b / Sanhedrin 20b quoting Deut 25:19

Hebrew: מחה תמחה את זכר עמלק מתחת השמים
English: **"You shall utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."**
(This is the commandment for genocide against Israel's enemies.)

13. *Mishnah Bikkurim* 4:1–5, *Talmud Bavli*: Yevamot 83b, 64a; Niddah 49b; Bikkurim 4, *Tosefta Bikkurim* 2, *Rambam (Maimonides), Mishneh Torah*: *Hilchot Ishut* (Laws of Marriage), *Hilchot Tum'at Met* (Laws of Ritual Impurity from the Dead)

Twelve separate genders for inheritance, marriage, ritual purity.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

President of the United Staes of America